



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Nutrition Service

Child Nutrition Programs: Income Eligibility Guidelines

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the Department's annual adjustments to the Income Eligibility Guidelines to be used in determining eligibility for free and reduced price meals and free milk for the period from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. These guidelines are used by schools, institutions, and facilities participating in the National School Lunch Program (and Commodity School Program), School Breakfast Program, Special Milk Program for Children, Child and Adult Care Food Program and Summer Food Service Program. The annual adjustments are required by section 9 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act. The guidelines are intended to direct benefits to those children most in need and are revised annually to account for changes in the Consumer Price Index.

DATES: Applicable July 1, 2023.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Penny Burke, Program Monitoring and Operational Support Division, Child Nutrition Programs, Food and Nutrition Service, United States Department of Agriculture, 1320 Braddock Place, Suite 401, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, 303-844-0357.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This action is not a rule as defined by the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601-612) and thus is exempt from the provisions of that Act.

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3507), no recordkeeping or reporting requirements have been included that are subject to approval

from the Office of Management and Budget.

This notice has been determined to be not significant and was not reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget in conformance with Executive Order 12866.

The affected programs are listed in the Assistance Listings (<https://sam.gov/>) under No. 10.553, No. 10.555, No. 10.556, No. 10.558, and No. 10.559 and are subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372, which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials. (See 2 CFR Part 415).

Background

Pursuant to sections 9(b)(1) and 17(c)(4) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758(b)(1) and 42 U.S.C. 1766(c)(4)), and sections 3(a)(6) and 4(e)(1)(A) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1772(a)(6) and 1773(e)(1)(A)), the Department annually issues the Income Eligibility Guidelines for free and reduced price meals for the National School Lunch Program (7 CFR Part 210), the Commodity School Program (7 CFR Part 210), School Breakfast Program (7 CFR Part 220), Summer Food Service Program (7 CFR Part 225) and Child and Adult Care Food Program (7 CFR Part 226) and the guidelines for free milk in the Special Milk Program for Children (7 CFR Part 215). These eligibility guidelines are based on the Federal income poverty guidelines and are stated by household size. The guidelines are used to determine eligibility for free and reduced price meals and free milk in accordance with applicable program rules.

Definition of Income

In accordance with the Department's policy as provided in the Food and Nutrition Service publication Eligibility Manual for School Meals, "income," as the term is used in this notice, means income before any deductions such as income taxes, Social Security taxes, insurance premiums, charitable contributions, and bonds. It includes the following: (1) monetary compensation for services, including wages, salary,

commissions or fees; (2) net income from nonfarm self-employment; (3) net income from farm self-employment; (4) Social Security; (5) dividends or interest on savings or bonds or income from estates or trusts; (6) net rental income; (7) public assistance or welfare payments; (8) unemployment compensation; (9) government civilian employee or military retirement, or pensions or veterans payments; (10) private pensions or annuities; (11) alimony or child support payments; (12) regular contributions from persons not living in the household; (13) net royalties; and (14) other cash income. Other cash income would include cash amounts received or withdrawn from any source including savings, investments, trust accounts and other resources that would be available to pay the price of a child's meal.

"Income", as the term is used in this notice, does not include any income or benefits received under any Federal programs that are excluded from consideration as income by any statutory prohibition. Furthermore, the value of meals or milk to children shall not be considered as income to their households for other benefit programs in accordance with the prohibitions in section 12(e) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act and section 11(b) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1760(e) and 1780(b)).

The Income Eligibility Guidelines:

The following are the Income Eligibility Guidelines to be effective from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. The Department's guidelines for free meals and milk and reduced price meals were obtained by multiplying the year 2023 Federal income poverty guidelines by 1.30 and 1.85, respectively, and by rounding the result upward to the next whole dollar.

This notice displays only the annual Federal poverty guidelines issued by the Department of Health and Human Services because the monthly and weekly Federal poverty guidelines are not used to determine the Income Eligibility Guidelines. The chart

details the free and reduced price eligibility criteria for monthly income, income received twice monthly (24 payments per year); income received every two weeks (26 payments per year) and weekly income.

Income calculations are made based on the following formulas: monthly income is calculated by dividing the annual income by 12; twice monthly income is computed by dividing annual income by 24; income received every two weeks is calculated by dividing annual income by 26; and weekly income is computed by dividing annual income by 52. All numbers are rounded upward to the next whole dollar. The numbers reflected in this notice for a family of four in the 48 contiguous States, the District of Columbia, Guam and the territories represent an increase of 8.1 percent over last year's level for a family of the same size.

Authority: Section 9(b)(1) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758(b)(1)(A)).

INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES													
Effective from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024													
HOUSEHOLD SIZE	FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES		REDUCED PRICE MEALS - 185 %						FREE MEALS - 130 %				
	ANNUAL		MONTHLY	TWICE PER MONTH	EVERY TWO WEEKS	WEEKLY	ANNUAL		MONTHLY	TWICE PER MONTH	EVERY TWO WEEKS	WEEKLY	
48 CONTIGUOUS STATES, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, GUAM, AND TERRITORIES													
1	14,580		26,973	2,248	1,124	1,038	519		18,954	1,580	790	729	365
2	19,720		36,482	3,041	1,521	1,404	702		25,636	2,137	1,069	986	493
3	24,860		45,991	3,833	1,917	1,769	885		32,318	2,694	1,347	1,243	622
4	30,000		55,500	4,625	2,313	2,135	1,068		39,000	3,250	1,625	1,500	750
5	35,140		65,009	5,418	2,709	2,501	1,251		45,682	3,807	1,904	1,757	879
6	40,280		74,518	6,210	3,105	2,867	1,434		52,364	4,364	2,182	2,014	1,007
7	45,420		84,027	7,003	3,502	3,232	1,616		59,046	4,921	2,461	2,271	1,136
8	50,560		93,536	7,795	3,898	3,598	1,799		65,728	5,478	2,739	2,528	1,264
For each add'l family member, add	5,140		9,509	793	397	366	183		6,682	557	279	257	129
ALASKA													
1	18,210		33,689	2,808	1,404	1,296	648		23,673	1,973	987	911	456
2	24,640		45,584	3,799	1,900	1,754	877		32,032	2,670	1,335	1,232	616
3	31,070		57,480	4,790	2,395	2,211	1,106		40,391	3,366	1,683	1,554	777
4	37,500		69,375	5,782	2,891	2,669	1,335		48,750	4,063	2,032	1,875	938
5	43,930		81,271	6,773	3,387	3,126	1,563		57,109	4,760	2,380	2,197	1,099
6	50,360		93,166	7,764	3,882	3,584	1,792		65,468	5,456	2,728	2,518	1,259
7	56,790		105,062	8,756	4,378	4,041	2,021		73,827	6,153	3,077	2,840	1,420
8	63,220		116,957	9,747	4,874	4,499	2,250		82,186	6,849	3,425	3,161	1,581
For each add'l family member, add	6,430		11,896	992	496	458	229		8,359	697	349	322	161
HAWAII													
1	16,770		31,025	2,586	1,293	1,194	597		21,801	1,817	909	839	420
2	22,680		41,958	3,497	1,749	1,614	807		29,484	2,457	1,229	1,134	567
3	28,590		52,892	4,408	2,204	2,035	1,018		37,167	3,098	1,549	1,430	715
4	34,500		63,825	5,319	2,660	2,455	1,228		44,850	3,738	1,869	1,725	863
5	40,410		74,759	6,230	3,115	2,876	1,438		52,533	4,378	2,189	2,021	1,011
6	46,320		85,692	7,141	3,571	3,296	1,648		60,216	5,018	2,509	2,316	1,158
7	52,230		96,626	8,053	4,027	3,717	1,859		67,899	5,659	2,830	2,612	1,306
8	58,140		107,559	8,964	4,482	4,137	2,069		75,582	6,299	3,150	2,907	1,454
For each add'l family member, add	5,910		10,934	912	456	421	211		7,683	641	321	296	148

Cynthia Long,
Administrator,
Food and Nutrition Service.

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